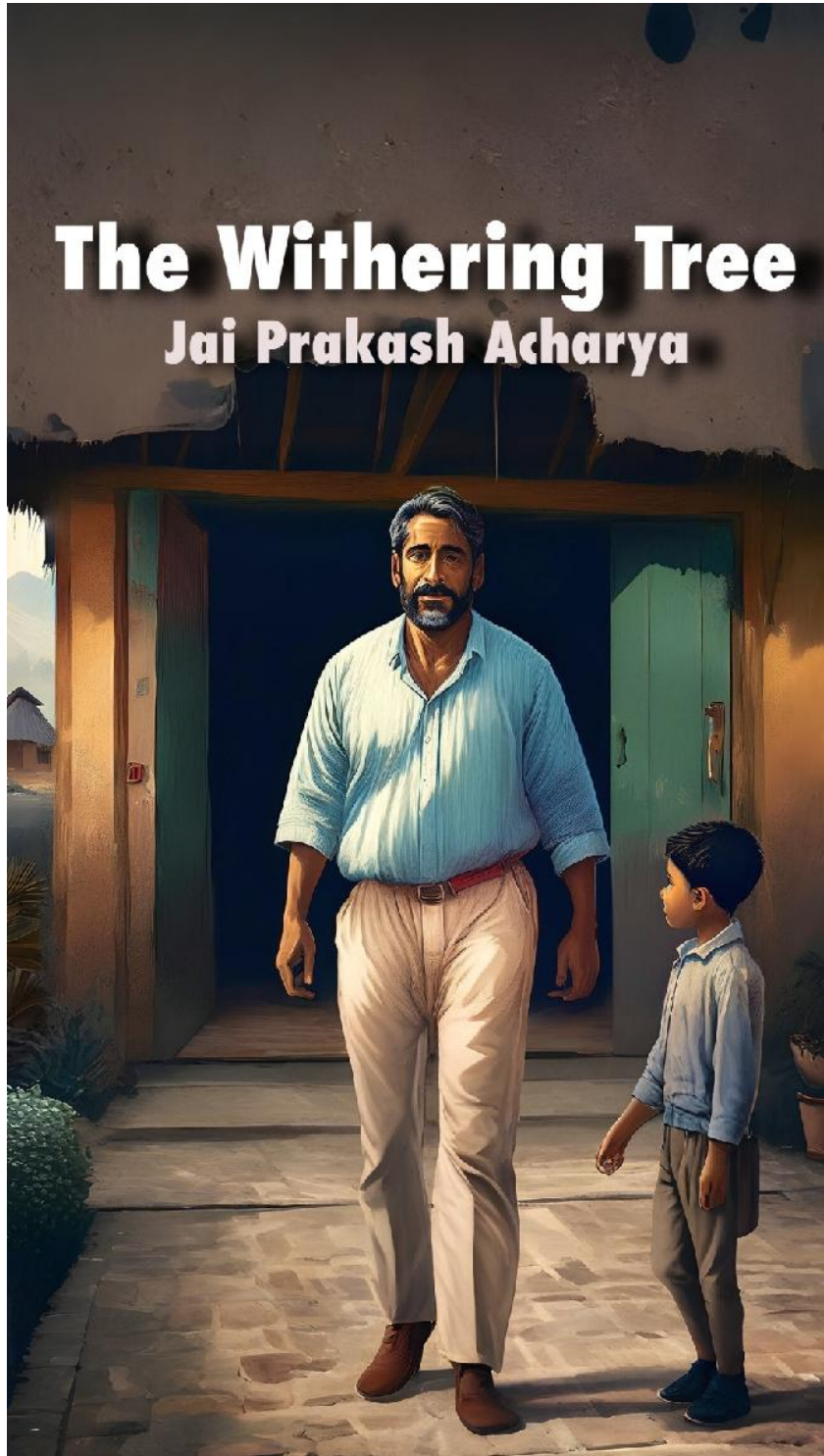


The Withering Tree

Jai Prakash Acharya



THE WITHERING TREE



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In the heart of bustling Delhi, there resided a young man named *Ankush*.

He harbored ambitious aspirations, the kind that often kept him awake at night. However, his father, *Shyamlal*, did not share his enthusiasm for these dreams.

One day, without much forewarning, Shyamlal abruptly departed.

Vanished.....

No explanation

no note, not even a farewell.

Ankush's world, once vibrant,
suddenly felt considerably constricted.

The responsibility for his family — his mother and his younger sister,
Geeta

now rested heavily upon his shoulders.
They depended on him, looked up to him as a
pillar of strength.

Thus, he diligently applied himself, engaging in various odd jobs and entrepreneurial ventures to ensure their financial stability.

*His days and nights were consumed by the demands of
delivering newspapers, tutoring students,*

and any other opportunity that presented itself.

He even attempted to generate income by selling newspapers at a street corner.

Throughout these challenging times,
Ankush maintained a resolute demeanor,
striving to be the unwavering support his family
desperately needed.

*Yet, in the quietude of the late hours, when
the city slumbered,
he would inevitably ponder the
whereabouts of his father.....*



About The Author

Jai Prakash Acharya



An enthusiastic reader and author hailing from New Delhi, India, with a deep appreciation for literature, takes pleasure in conveying numerous themes and insights through succinct and impactful short stories.